

# Bill gives education power to government of any stripe

## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to address a number of comments made in Tracy Kibble's diatribe "Are we really that afraid of teachers?"

First, she remarks that teachers "should be ashamed for writing biased letters."

Well, unless every writer is willing to state their sociocultural upbringing, political and religious beliefs, sexual preferences, and personal perspectives on any number of issues, one's 'biases' will never be clear.

Second, as for teachers' comments being "simply union propaganda," I find it very unlikely that teachers — whose very profession involves the teaching of thinking and learning skills, the discussion and questioning of ideas and issues, and whose educational backgrounds are significant — would simply repeat union thinking verbatim and without critical thought.

Third, the comments "that during the past 10 years education spending has increased nearly 85 per cent, while school taxes rose a revolting 120 per cent," fall into Ms. Kibble's own condemnation of bias and the spouting of propaganda — only this time it's the government's propaganda.

Information available from the Ontario Public School Boards Association debunks this government misinformation.

The government purposefully uses the 1985 and 1995 comparison of data because it reflects the greatest change in funding.

The 1985 data is the year prior to the funding of high school in the separate system, while 1995 was the last year full-funding was available to junior kindergarten and adult education.

In addition, the government has decreased its transfer payments over this period, increased the province-wide education mill rate which it sets, and mandated programs without providing funding.

Hence, local education taxes have had to increase — the province has been downloading costs onto the local boards.

In closing, I would suggest that anyone who favours improving education should take a critical look at this bill.

It has nothing to do with improving classroom education and more to do with providing the government with the power to do whatever it wants with the system.

And, even if you do support the Conservative agenda with regard to education (decrease of funding and dismissal of at least 7500 teachers), will you support the next government — perhaps Liberal, or NDP or a new Reform party — who will have all of this power bestowed by this bill?

Steve Bull  
Stouffville

# EATON'S

## Make your home sparkle

# 30% off

our entire collection of incredible Christmas decorations. Many exclusive to Eaton's.

ALL

- Ornaments
  - Lights • Trees
  - Stockings
  - Christmas wrap
  - Boxed cards and more.
- (in our Christmas Shop)

### Need extra time to shop?

Our Toronto Eaton Centre store is open Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Suburban stores - Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

All offers available until December 7, 1997. Selection varies by store.

\*Savings off regular ticketed prices.

Your *Holiday* store.

## LAWYER

**PETER J. LEWARNE**

Matrimonial / Personal Injury  
/ Commercial Litigation /  
Small Business Law / Bankruptcy  
Real Estate / Wills

Over 20 years experience

Low Rates - Quality Service

4701 Highway No. 7 (at Kennedy Rd.)  
Unionville, Ontario L3R 1M7

Tel: 477-4381 Fax: 477-7601

24 Hour Availability